

## ABSTRACT

The invention provides a method for software contrast control and a portable computer  
5 implementing software contrast control. The contrast control is initiated by a single interaction  
with an input mechanism, for example a pressing of a dedicated contrast control button. The  
method can be applied more generally to viewing parameters other than contrast such as  
brightness, color bit depth, color versus monochrome, and screen resolution. The method  
includes a processor disposed in the portable computer receiving an activation signal from a  
10 button or other input mechanism, and displaying viewing parameter adjustment graphics on the  
image screen. The method continues with the processor receiving a viewing parameter  
adjustment signal and responding to the adjustment signal by adjusting the viewing parameter  
levels for the image screen to levels based on the adjustment graphics. The method can include  
activating the input mechanism by applying a single interaction to thereto prior to the receiving  
15 of the activation signal for viewing parameter control. The portable computer can include a  
display, a contrast control hardware button, a processor, and a memory. The viewing parameter  
levels vary in response to image screen drive voltages. The processor responds to input applied  
to the viewing parameter control graphical user interface elements by adjusting the viewing  
parameters. The applying of the input includes one or more of selecting and adjusting one or  
20 more of the viewing parameter control graphical user interface elements.